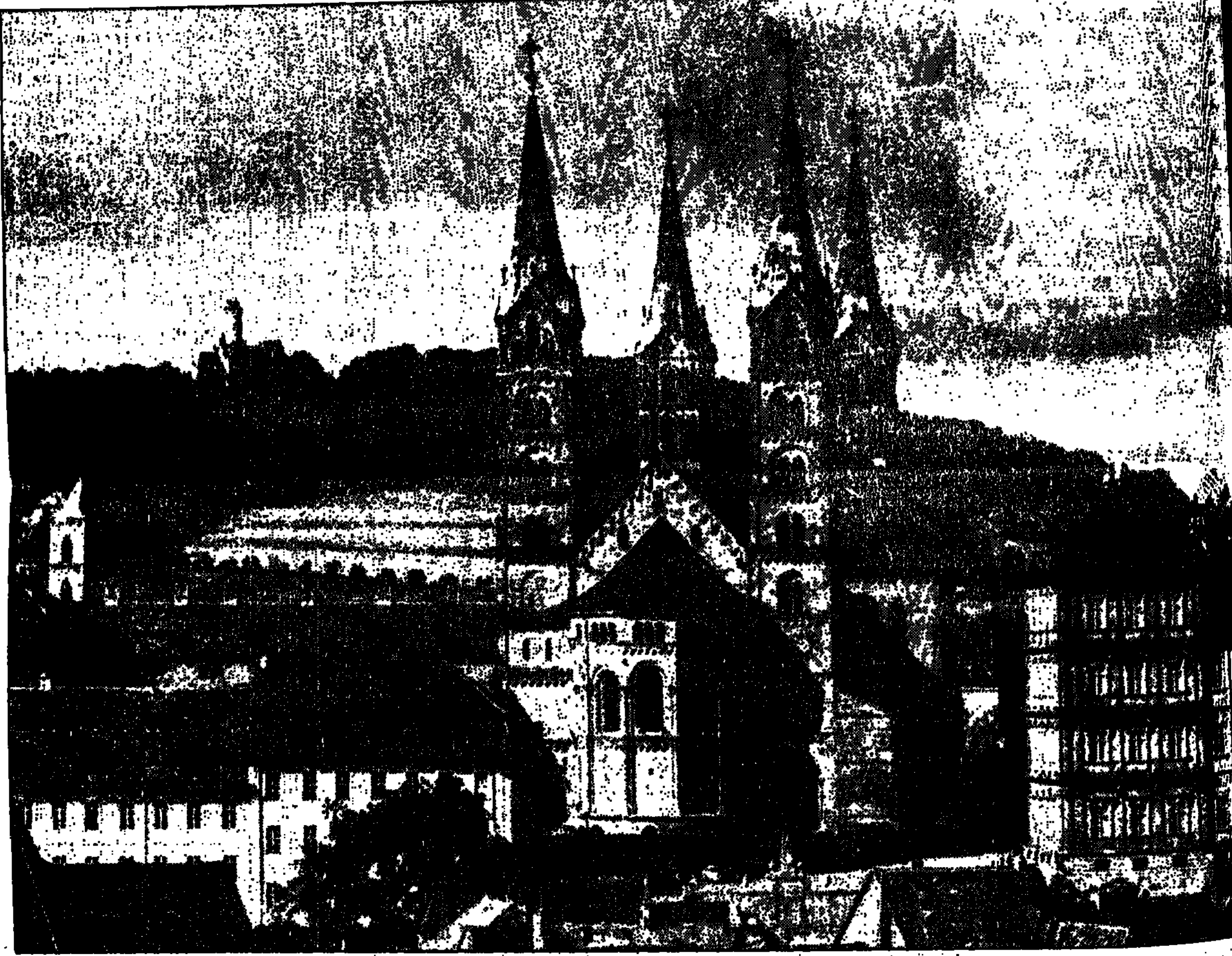
Germany's churches and cathedrals

Everyone knows, of course, that in Cologne, Worms, Freiburg, Aachen, Ulm and elsewhere ancient Gothic and Romanesque cathedrals tower up like castles into the sky. Impressive structures down to the very treasures in their vaults. For even here, in this land of industry, tourism, Inter-City trains, airlines and motorways, churches, cathedrals and chapels have more than a spiritual function. They are reminders, thought-provoking. Cherished as artistic masterpieces. Take, for instance, the delightful Romanesque church in Dietkirchen on the Lahn. Or the enchanting Wieskirche, surrounded by the woods and meadows of the Alpine foothills in Upper Bavaria. Clear, serene, rococo splendour. Just two examples from many thousands. "Churches," as James Joyce wrote in 1915 on a Rhine journey, "like miracles from heaven."



Bamberg, Bavaria



Velbert Neviges Church in the Ruhr

The German Tribune

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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Schmidt's assignment in Washington

n previous visits to America Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt had world at his feet. How time has nged!

S newspapers are openly questioning Nato loyalties of Germans in general Social Democrats in particular.

Despite the general election victory of Bonn coalition of Social and Free nocrats last October, Herr Schmidt's nestic position is felt to be weak.

He could hardly expect the Reagan ninistration to welcome him with awe l reverence. Neither could he expect be in a position to criticise inconsiscies in the new US government's forn policy.

In view of President Reagan's popula-y with the US public the Chancellor s well advised to steer clear of airing s views on such issues.

"Schmidt comes as a man who needs lp and expects it," the *Wall Street urnal* commented.

A long list of problems currently ts ties between the two countries. the Germans' chagrin, for instance, Reagan administration has pursued a sistently anti-Communist line.

This approach largely ignores the re-s of relations between Eastern and stern Europe in general and between two parts of Germany in particular.

Bonn has also been ruffled by US ence Secretary Weinberger's ill-conived remarks and constant calls for erica's allies to spend more on arms.

Conservatives in the White House, on other hand, have noted what they l to be neutralisation tendencies in Federal Republic of Germany.

They note the growing resistance in rr Schmidt's own party, the SPD, to nn's Nato commitment to station w medium-range nuclear missiles in rmany from 1983.

High US interest rates are another ne of contention. Intended to beat mestic inflation, they have so far hieved no more than to ensure that ropean currencies have lost heavily ainst the dollar.

In comparison with these two major pics other differences of opinion on port restrictions for Japanese cars. iddle East policy and the best way of restoring peace in El Salvador were of minor importance, although they naturally had to be dealt with in detail.

After the election of President Mitterrand in France, a man whose left-wing orientation makes the White House feel anything but at ease, the Chancellor remains America's indispensable ally on the Continent.

After his proclamation of loyalty to Nato and threat to resign unless the SPD stood by Bonn's arms modernisation commitments the US government was under an extra obligation to lend him ever assistance.

It certainly did so, as for instance by appointing Arthur Burns as ambassador to Bonn and hinting at a resumption of the East-West dialogue.

The Reagan administration is beginning to realise that for the Chancellor stationing new nuclear missiles in Germany is inseparably linked with continuation of disarmament talks.

The Chancellor will advocate official negotiations this autumn, and the President is likely to meet him half-way, while trying to keep at bay the inevitable clash in his own camp until the Republican economic programme has made its way through Congress.

But Herr Schmidt could hardly hope for concessions on astronomical US interest rates. All Mr Reagan may have been prepared to reasure him in private is that he is prepared to compromise on his controversial fiscal plans.

Any such compromise would reduce the expected US budget deficit, relieve the burden on capital markets and thus boost hopes of lower interest rates.

But the Chancellor, much to his dismay, will not have been allowed to mention this in public.

Jens Eckhardt

(Handelsblatt, 22 May 1981)

IN THIS ISSUE



Smiles all round. Chancellor Schmidt and President Reagan enjoy a less formal moment in the White House. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Two important reasons for Brazilian leader's visit

Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo's two-day visit to Germany was at least as important for policy towards America as Bonn's interest in progress on the North-South dialogue.

Ties between Bonn and Brazil have long been untroubled, which is more than can be said of ties with Latin America as a whole.

Collaboration between Germany and Brazil has long prompted annoyance and mistrust in Washington, especially over atomic energy deals.

Envy was partly the reason why, the envy of a competitor in nuclear technology. Also, Brazil, unquestionably a nuclear threshold power, has not signed the nonproliferation treaty.

Relations have since returned to normal in this respect, however. Chancellor Schmidt and the Brazilian President will have sought to rule out future rivalry, bearing in mind that Bonn's policy in Latin America must tally completely with that of the United States.

In principle Brazil cannot have many objections to this proviso but the Brazilian government would like to change the emphasis and forge universal economic links to help itself to put paid to its longstanding economic and social difficulties.

This presents Bonn development aid specialists with a tough challenge. With liabilities totalling $70bn Brazil is one of the most heavily indebted Third World countries but it is also enormous in size, rich in natural resources and in part surprisingly advanced industrially. But the prosperity gap between the industrial areas and the more outlying provinces is catastrophic.

Brazil is hoping German industry will invest a further DM3bn to DM5bn at least to help it tide over a critical period. President Figueiredo needs economic consolidation to be able to press ahead with democratisation.

Next year is election year, so the government needs to make some headway by then so as to be sure it can scotch any ideas of political adventure the armed forces might have.

President Figueiredo is also the head of a developing country that has come into its developing country that has come into its own and is eager for recognition and treatment on terms of equality by the major industrialised countries.

Brazil regards Bonn as a partner with whose assistance the North-South dialogue, by which the Third World sets such great store, can at last be launched in earnest.

Franz Fegeler

(Nordwest Zeitung, 18 May 1981)



Getting together: Brazil's President Figueiredo in Bonn with President Karl Carstens. (Photo: Poly-Press)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Nato's role: to eliminate the need for ultimate macabre choice

Nato's role is to ensure that member-countries never need to face the macabre choice between capitulation and defeat, between Red and dead.

In the nuclear era that means preventing war in our anywhere near Europe and ensuring supplies of essential raw materials (and not just oil).

In military terms the only way in which this policy can still be successfully pursued is by deterrent.

If the deterrent fails to deter, and either nuclear or even modern conventional weapons are deployed in Europe, the destruction is sure to be so great that nothing will be left that is worth defending.

Have the conferences of Nato Defence Ministers in Brussels and Nato Foreign Ministers in Rome gone any way towards increasing the alliance's ability to fulfil this role?

The US government is more likely than any to feel in a position to give an answer in the affirmative.

Washington reckons the Soviet arms build-up is attributable first and foremost to Moscow's intention of exploiting every weakness of the West; to extend its own sphere of influence; to exert pressure; and to practise blackmail.

The United States thus feels there is only one appropriate response at present for the West to rearm.

Negotiations are not felt likely to be any use until some later date, and then *only provided the Soviet Union is on its* best behaviour worldwide.

The Russians have largely themselves to blame for triggering this reaction. Past Soviet arms projects were not restricted in the days when forces in favour of detente held the upper hand in America.

To this day Moscow has proved unable to put paid to its aura of secrecy. So mistrust is an ongoing factor and can be stepped up virtually without limit.

Europe too, since Afghanistan if not earlier, has no longer been prepared to rely on protestations of peaceful intentions by the Kremlin.

However in Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway especialy, and also in Germany, an increasing number of people are beginning to doubt whether it is in the interest of Nato's avoved purpose to bank so exclusively on armaments as the Americans are doing.

At present this difference of viewpoint is clearest in connection with the twofold Nato decision reached in Brussels in December 1979.

Europe would like to see Nato do more than commission a new generation of medium-range nuclear missiles from the United States and prepare for them to be stationed in Europe.

It would also like to see Washington negotiate with Moscow on this very issue at the same time, and later perhaps take up strategic arms limitation again and resume talks on inter-continental missiles.

In Rome and Brussels all that was agreed was a limited compromise. Negotiations are to be held, but with very little hope of being able to cut back the number of Western medium-range missiles as a result.

The Americans, on the other hand, are coming to terms with the idea that their European partners are having to limit their defence spending increases to what they can afford.

What they can afford is strictly limited, as we in Germany are coming to realise right now.

What is more, Washington has also succeeded for the first time in persuading its Nato partners to state officially that they might be prepared to support military moves outside the pact's immediate geographical confines if there were no other way to guarantee vital Western interests.

This support is limited and subject to prior consultation, but agreement on this issue is tantamount to a carte blanche allowing Washington to enlist Western military assistance.

It has been given for the most part, perhaps, because the Europeans are so heavily dependent on oil imports, especially as military support may primarily be envisaged in the Near and Middle East.

So differences of viewpoint between Europe and America have by no means been overcome. They are arguably most serious in connection with the Third World.

Even a completely unanimous West would be hard pressed to handle the Third World's crises.

They include, say, Lebanon, Israel and Syria, the Persian Gulf, Central America and Namibia, to name but a few.

The force of facts may, of course, gradually oblige the Reagan administration to adopt the less straightforward outlook taken by Europe.

What makes this more than likely is that effective military aspects of the plans envisaged, such as the much-vaunted Regional Deployment Force are little more than plans as yet, and not even unduly convincing ones either.

But in dealings with the Soviet Union Washington seems likely to take longer to come round to the European point of view.

The new men in Washington say the West is seriously threatened by the Soviet Union, ir at least they claim so.

Yet they are also evidently banking fully on US economic, scientific and technological superiority and expect Moscow to worry that it might not be able to hold its own with the United States in the long term.

Washington thus expects the Kremlin to toe the line one of these days and negotiate on the terms laid down by the United States.

Hitherto, however, the Soviet Union has repeatedly proved capable of tightening its belt of notch or two. In terms of science and technology Russia has not conceded defeat either.

By its own token the Kremlin has merely rearmed and re-equipped, at times in a more primitive and expensive fashion, but none the worse for that.

So it is doubtful indeed whether the United States or Nato can hope to gain greater security by this approach.

The best that can be expected is that after a while both East and West will again face the problems that confront them already, but armed to the teeth to an even greater degree, more mistrustful and closer to the brink.

So negotiations must be held, without delay and not merely on medium-range missiles.

The compromise reached in Rome may turn out to have been a first step in this direction, always assuming Helmut Schmidt and others succeed in getting their message across in Washington.

The message they would like to press on the United States is that in the wake of a nuclear catastrophe it will no longer be any use complaining that Moscow was too tough a bargaining partner.

Hans Gelach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 18 May 1981)

Moscow attempts to create an illusion of compromise

At the CSCE review conference in Madrid the Soviet Union has hit on a new trick that makes Moscow at first glance appear ready to compromise.

On closer scrutiny, however, the new subterfuge is designed to dilute the Helsinki accords and defuse them as far as Russia itself is concerned.

The Soviet delegation has declared itself ready to accept demands for an extension of individual ties and exchanges of information between East and West.

But it is only prepared to do so on condition that a preamble lays down that fulfilment of CSCE undertakings is dependent on progress towards detente.

Western diplomats who have been confronted with East Bloc tactics throughout the long years at the CSCE conference table naturally saw through the trick immediately.

If the Soviet Union and its satellites want to avoid going ahead with reuniting divided families and stepping up the flow of traffic and information, all they need to do is claim that the detente situation has deteriorated.

Worse still, they could themselves accelerate such a deterioration by stymieing the progress of detente, as Russia did by occupying Afghanistan, say.

Their anti-detente policy would then even have the added bonus of exempting them from CSCE commitments.

East Berlin, for instance, would no longer need to argue that an increase in the amount of money Western visitors to the GDR are required to change at the border was necessitated by the decline in purchasing power of the deutschemark.

Instead it could simply say that the detente process had taken a turn for the worse, even though the blame might lie with the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union cannot expect to be backed by either the Western or neutral countries at the Madrid conference in its bid to reverse the effect of the Helsinki accords.

Moscow is well aware this is so, so the Soviet proposal can only be taken to be another move in the East Bloc's tactics of attrition.

In this instance, however, the diplomatic war of attrition looks like it may boomerang.

After the recess Western diplomats from countries that were keen before Easter to get the conference over and done with as soon as possible began to say that undue haste was unnecessary.

As far as the East Bloc is concerned the talks have dragged on far too long. So the tables have now been turned and the West is by no means worse off for the change.

Whenever the Kremlin is confronted with its own tactics its delegates are irritated. This was the case at the end of last year when Western diplomats called for voluntary advance notification of military manoeuvres to be made mandatory.

The Soviet Union found itself at the receiving end of the Lenin quote: "Trust is good but control is better." Moscow would hear nothing of the Western proposal.

The situation is much the same right now at the second Helsinki review conference, which began in Madrid on 11 November 1980.

Before the Eastern recess Mr Brezhnev's chief delegate at the conference, Deputy Foreign Minister Ilychev, said negotiations could not possibly be brought to a close until a positive result had been arrived at.

Now it is the turn of Western diplomats to adopt this attitude. Encouraged by the the Rome conference of EEC Foreign Ministers, they are not even ruling out the possibility of the talks continuing into autumn.

Mr Ilyichev, on the other hand, now says the conference is in the home straight. Marian Dobrosielski, his Polish counterpart, even says Western diplomats alone have said in the past.

The credibility of the CSCE would suffer from any further delay followed by a non-committal final communiqué, Professor Dobrosielski claims.

All delegations have said the 29-page compromise draft final document planned by eight neutral and non-aligned states is a sound basis, but that is no guarantee of an immediate breakthrough.

In common with all compromise proposals it naturally contains turns of phrase that suit one side but not the other. Besides, in the final analysis it comes back to the old clash of viewpoints.

The West is clamouring for human rights guarantees, extension of individual contacts and a freer flow of information.

Continued on page 5

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HOME AFFAIRS

Chancellor makes his stand clear to SPD on Nato issue

Chancellor Schmidt has put it on record that his political destiny hangs falls with the double Nato decision arms.

He told the Bavarian SPD congress in Wolfratshausen that he "could no longer responsibility for the Federal Republic of Germany" should the SPD at next national congress in spring year depart from the Nato decision.

And he told party officials at a meeting in Recklinghausen that his political fate was linked with the Nato decision in general and the negotiating component in particular: "With it, I stand or fall."

The Chancellor's decision to take the bull by the horns came on the eve of his departure for Washington for talks with President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig.

He spoke without questioning the sincerity of defence discussion within the party.

Schmidt put forward four points to explain his standpoint:

- Fortitude, steadfastness and perseverance are part and parcel of politics. It is impossible to change a policy after 18 months when nothing has happened to warrant such an about face.
- The Soviet Union continues its arms build-up.

There is no reason to believe that we would back the SPD in a departure from the Nato decision.

- Such a reversal would be "irreconcilable with my conscience as a person and as chancellor."

Schmidt was particularly harsh with those politicians within and outside his party who questioned the military balance.

"Those who dismiss the balance of power are utopians who jeopardise the peace."

He later put it even more bluntly: "I shall oppose with all my strength any policy aimed at Western inferiority as I shall oppose a policy of Western superiority."

The Chancellor was clearly dismayed at the allegedly growing anti-American and pro-Soviet mood in this country.

Obviously agitated, he told the Bavarian delegates: "Stop listening to those who act as if the Americans were our enemies and the Russians our friends . . . There is no reason to believe that we would be better off under the protective shield of a communist dictatorship . . . Do you think that the Sermon on the Mount is the right instrument with which to change Soviet policy?"

Schmidt warned emphatically against constantly doubting the American administration's determination to preserve the peace.

He told the delegates to take note of the decision made at the Nato foreign ministers conference in Rome to begin arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union before the end of the year.

Referring to the peace movement in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Chancellor said: "I reject attempts to turn pacifism into a dirty word."

But he went on to say that he equally resents the fact that some of those who earnestly search for ways and means of preserving the peace think that they have the right to claim that others who do the same are unchristian and immoral.

"Denigration of others is an evil companion of this movement."

In Wolfratshausen, most delegates opposed any departure from the Nato decision as demanded by the Nuremberg delegates.

A motion put forward by the executive committee was adopted with 258 against 46 votes, thus confirming the decision of the national party congress in December 1978, according to which military balance is the main objective of security policy.

It also confirmed that the offer of negotiations as part of the Nato decision have priority over the stationing in Western Europe of new medium-range missiles.

The two-track Nato decision is to be put on the agenda again at the special congress of Bavaria's SPD next February.

Like two weeks earlier at the congress of the Baden-Württemberg SPD in Aalen and the Bremen SPD congress in mid-May, the Bavarian congress also called for a review of the Berlin resolution.

The Bavarian resolution calls for negotiations aimed at reducing "the destruction potential of medium range missiles and a freeze on the stationing of additional weapons along with an instant freeze on missiles at the present level as a first step towards comprehensive disarmament talks."

The earnest and matter-of-fact discussions made it clear that both the opponents and the proponents of the Nato decision have a common aim. They want to put an end to the arms race and negotiate.

What they differ on is the "how".

Nobody doubts what the re-elected SPD chairman for Bavaria, Rothemund, said: "We can prevent an arms race only by continuing to bear political responsibility in this country."

Referring to his party, the Chancellor complained that "we now have members who see their main function in engaging in internal party fights" instead of fighting political opponents.

The development in Berlin over the past few years and the outcome of the Berlin election have made it clear, the Chancellor said, that the party must close ranks in dealing with its political opponents.

It must also guard against "silly alternatives" such as the contention that it can either hold its established voters or attract the young ones.

Majorities can only be achieved or maintained by "pursuing a policy which the man-in-the-street considers just and in his interest."

The SPD, the chancellor said, must remain the party of the man-in-the-street and must never become only a party of intellectuals.

Said Schmidt: "We are grateful for everybody who comes to us. But the SPD must remain a populist party and must not become a seminar party."

Gode Japs

(Vorwärts, 21 May 1981)

Action 'was overdue'

The Chancellor has done what he should have done long ago by battling it out on the issue of SPD security policy.

Regardless whether it is true or not he intended no blackmail when he told the delegates at the party congress he would resign should the Nato two-track decision be turned down, the fact remains.

His prediction that there would be an entirely different government" should he resign is in all likelihood right.

At the moment there is no potential chancellor in sight within the SPD and the Free Democrats would be prepared to follow.

In fact, many FDP politicians are only waiting for the Chancellor to resign so that they can change their coalition partner.

It is certain, however, that Schmidt's appeal will not silence the discussion within the SPD. There is a trend against the stationing of medium range American missiles in Europe — and it is growing.

But perhaps those SPD politicians who have been see-sawing will be influenced by the Chancellor's warning.

Schmidt is now fighting on two fronts. By saying that he stands and falls with American-Soviet negotiations and their success he has prepared the ground for his visit to Washington where he will be insistent that matters be speeded up.

He will also point out that excessive procrastination by the Washington administration would create considerable problems for the Bonn government.

There can be no doubt that this is actually so.

Schmidt's dramatic appeal to his own party shows how seriously he takes the developments within the SPD.

The threat to resign is usually the last weapon to be taken out of the arsenal — should it be used the alarm bell will be sounded.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 May 1981)

Testing time ahead for coalition

The SPD and the coalition government in Bonn face a testing summer — and probably a testing time beyond that.

First, the CDU/CSU Opposition wants to put the government majority in the Bundestag to the test by bringing about a vote on the double Nato arms decision.

Second, the budget for 1981 is to be put to the vote next month.

Third, there will be a debate on the 1982 budget in August when the coalition partners are bound to clash again.

Fourth, the SPD party congress is in April next year.

The question over the budget debate next month is:

How many SPD MPs will refuse to give it their vote — especially in view of the fact that the defence budget is virtually the only one that has been increased?

The FDP has already made it clear that this is the point on which the coalition hinges.

And then the debate on the 1982 budget: a clash is certain — especially in view of the fact that reduced revenues due to the economic slump will necessitate cuts in the social affairs sector.

Said Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer: "We will have to cut back and stretch what we have."

The April 1982 SPD Party Congress with its new decision on the Nato modernisation could seal the fate of the coalition and hence the chancellor.

If a majority rejects the stationing of medium range missiles in this country, Schmidt is likely to have to honour his threat to resign — provided he stays in office until then.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 19 May 1981)

Rank and file put pressure on FDP

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, chairman of the FDP, faces increasing opposition in his party to the Nato decision.

He will have to use all his authority if he is to keep the FDP in line at the party congress.

After all, the FDP has traditionally been opposed to nuclear weapons. And the series of bad news on Bonn's fiscal policy coupled with the credibility debate following the Berlin election has made the situation even more explosive.

Statements by leading coalition politicians about the coalition in both Bonn and Berlin must be seen in this light.

The Chancellor's warning of the danger of a change of government was directed not only at his own party but at the FDP as well.

The Free Democrats are of course anxious to do everything in their power to prevent being blamed should the Schmidt-Genscher government founder.

The SPD's understanding for a possible CDU-FDP coalition in Berlin has also met with a mixed reaction among the liberals. The left wing especially feels that there is a lack of solidarity in the SPD and fears that the Bonn coalition partner will brand the FDP as a vacillating ally.

On the other hand, the FDP leadership has announced that — following the Berlin experience — it will have to review its campaign strategy.

Berlin has shown that coalition commitments in favour of the SPD can leave the party in the lurch the moment there are no longer only three but four parties on the political scene.

The whole thing boils down to toying with the idea of offering a coalition to the CDU for the next state legislature elections in Lower Saxony and in Hamburg.

Peter Hopen

(Bremer Nachrichten, 19 May 1981)

■ THE PARTIES

CSU confronts a rebel in the ranks

The CSU wants to discipline or expel one of its members who opposes the Nato nuclear arms modernisation-and-negotiation decision.

The case against peace researcher Alfred Merchtesheimer arises aginast a background of an ever broader peace movement that cannot be judged by the conventional criteria of left and right. The only common denominator is the wish to prevent war.

However, critics of the Nato decision and of excessively close ties with the US are not so loud in the CDU/CSU union, as in other parties and groupings.

Once the Merchtesheimer affair is over and he party takes stock it will probably arrive at the same conclusion as the SPD after its disciplinary proceedings against MP Karl Heinz Hansen: the whole thing has failed to reaffirm the party leadership while the man under attack has achieved a rather broader solidarisation on the part of his fellow party members and a further discussion on the Nato decision.

Even though it is an established part of the ritual of closing communiqués to prevent both parties from losing face, the outcome for the party can nevertheless be summed up as: much broken china and repairs that hurt.

In both cases — Hansen, SPD, and Merchtesheimer, CSU – top-ranking officials used strong language and allegations that were much more detrimental to their parties than to the "delinquents" threatened with expulsion.

Both men speak for minorities within their parties — and a party should be able to weather this. It is obvious that Merchtesheimer's chance of getting his ideas across and eventually having them adopted by the majority is much slimmer than Hansen's.

But even more important than a majority is an open discussion within what is after all a populist party.

It is clear evidence of the fear in both parties of being considered disunited internally that they should resort to an expulsion hearing in their bid to curtail the range of opinion and discussion.

Alfred Merchtesheimer has said that his party, the CSU, does not want a discussion because "unity is the only asset which the CDU/CSU has to contribute to a new government."

What does this mean in terms of security policy? It means joining forces and voices in "repeating the old litany of balance of power" and being even more Schmidt-like than Schmidt himself.

As Merchtesheimer sees it, this is no policy for an opposition party. The fact that he has deviated from the party line, he says, is the last thing he should be blamed for. After all, it was a general who said: "The CSU doesn't have a security policy line."

Merchtesheimer goes along with this criticism and pins his hopes on the grassroots, a number of local party branches and the *Junge Union*, the young members' branch.

They, he says, understand that the next parliamentary election will be decided by the issue of war and peace and by the relationship between Europe and the United States.

Should these questions remain unansored, the election would be lost again.

The present atmosphere makes it disastrously easy for the parties to isolate "pacifists" and, even more, so, "neutralists".

Merchtesheimer is neither of the two, nor does he go along with communist ideas, as has been suggested by Bavaria's Finance Minister Max Stribl.

In fact, he has been told by the far left that his ideas helped "stabilise the existing system".

The SPD, which had invited him to attend a rally, withdrew the invitation when told that he was a CSU member.

Says Merchtesheimer: "I'd of course rather go to a CSU rally, but my party doesn't have that sort of thing."

Merchtesheimer, who works for the Max Planck Institute for Research into Living Conditions in a Scientific-Technical World" is out to achieve public effects. And to do so he has to be outspoken. ("The Federal Republic of Germany is threatened by deadly danger. But the danger can be overcome if the people rise against it.")

The envisaged stationing of American missiles on German soil, says Merchtesheimer, makes the outbreak of a war more likely and increases the danger of a nuclear holocaust.

His conclusion: "To prevent the stationing of the new missiles is tantamount to serving peace in Europe and the security of the Federal Republic of Germany."

Merchtesheimer did not say this as a politician but as a scientist.

The question is, can a man who is protected by the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of science be put before a party committee and face possible expulsion on the grounds of having "deliberately and considerably violated and principle and order of his party, thus causing it severe harm."

The harm caused to the CSU is more likely to come from those who fail to differentiate between the researcher and the party member.

With this danger in mind, Stribl tried to save the day at the last moment by saying that the public was not particularly interested in the views of a private individual or a scientist.

What aroused the public's interest, Stribl said, was the fact that Merchtesheimer is a CSU member and acts as such in public.

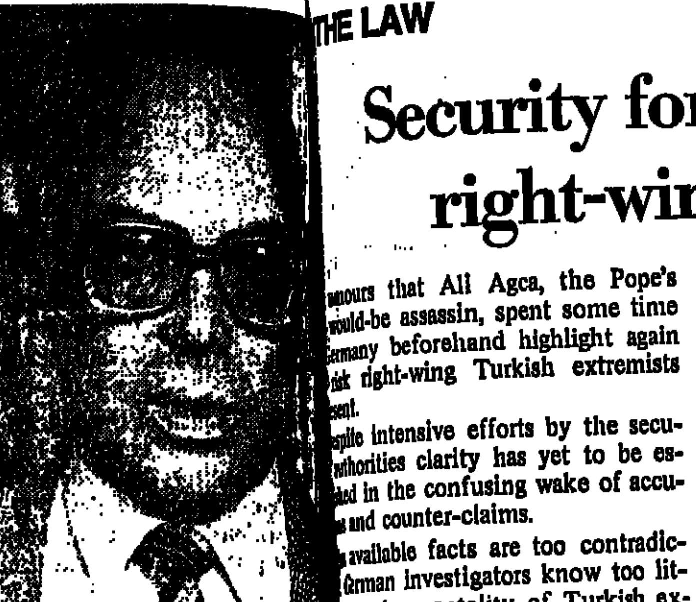
This, he said, made it his duty to abide by and uphold the principles of the party.

But whom of those who have watched Merchtesheimer in public was aware of his CSU membership?

This has only recently received public attention.

Even when comparing his remarks as a scientist with the CSU party programme he finds that the two tally.

The way he sees it, his criticism of he Nato modernisation decision is confirmed by his party's avowal that "Nato must be maintained and developed as a genuine partnership in both righ[ts and] duties."



Alfred Merchtesheimer

(Pho[to ...])

To support his demand for "m[...] dependence for Western Europe [...] both superpowers", Merchte[sheimer] quotes statements to that effect b[y] party chairman, Franz Josef Straus[s].

Merchtesheimer is not only in[...] to a party in which, by definiti[on ...] considers himself as belonging t[o ...] "CDU part"; he also antagonised [...] cians and the arms industry b[...] 1978 when, as an air force lieuten[ant] [c]olonel, he massively criticised the [...] do project — another thing he h[as] been forgiven for.

Roman A[...]

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonnta[gsblatt], 17 Ma[y 1981])

SPD mayor of Heidelberg resigns from party

The mayor of Heidelberg has resigned from the SPD after a long-running disagreement with the party.

Reinhold Zundel's decision was finally made after the district conference gave him an ultimatum to withdraw charges against squatters.

Herr Zundel says the party is still trying to rub shoulders with the left.

He blames them squarely for housing problems, saying in his letter of resignation: "You didn't wake up until they started hurling stones at you again."

The Heidelberg SPD said the resignation was no more than "the formal confirmation of a condition that has existed for years."

Social Democrats in Baden-Württemberg are happy that there are any SPD mayors at all in the *Land*.

Although every second citizen in the state is still a CDU follower and although 40 per cent of town councillors are Christian Democrats, there are still a few blotches of red.

The Social Democrats have lost in the past few years such major cities as Karlsruhe and Stuttgart to the CDU, but in the interior — in places like Offenburg or Aalen — there are still some directly elected SPD councillors fighting CDU majorities.

Zundel was one of this minority.

He has been in office for 15 years, and leaves the party after a 16-year membership.

Although the Social Democrats should have learned a thing or two during the 1968 student upheavals, they still — as Zundel sees it — try to cultivate the left.

They have neglected basic research



Reinhold Zundel

(Photo: dpa)

and have neglected all science policy, he says in his resignation.

And now, he says, the Heidelberg SPD again deplores "luxury (housing) rehabilitation" which in fact does not exist at all.

After Zundel's election in 1966 with a majority over the CDU of 266 votes, the marriage between him and the SPD, which had supported his candidacy, was close to winding up on the rocks.

Eleven years ago, the Heidelberg SPD still supported the terror organisation "Socialist Patients' Collective" while Zundel was not prepared to make any concessions to the group.

But this was due more to a fortuitous coincidence than to astute design.

Equipped with all the powers [...] with the office of a mayor in Ba[den-] Württemberg, he has always manag[ed to] maintain law and order.

Frequently disregarding the a[...] he party leadership, he ord[ered the] police to round up the hobos [...] banks of the Neckar River and [...] every legal trick in the book to [...] citizens' initiative opposing the [deve]lopment of a city borough.

Though he also banned a dem[onstra]tion by the neo-Nazis in Heidelberg [...] eagle eye was usually fixed on the [...]

A court injunction stopped him [...]ring to "so-called lawyers" but his [...] to say about a journalist that he [...] "beyond the pale of our constitu[tional] state" was upheld.

In fact, he is supposed to have [...]tened another journalist, saying: [...] chase you out of the city — and I'll [...] you go barefoot."

He even tried to gain control o[ver ...] theatre when he attempted to ma[ke ...] theatre director also the head o[f ...] city's Cultural Affairs Department.

When he was re-elected in 197[...] party bluntly called his victory a "[...]ter". Though the party did not nom[inate] him again, the trade union and [...] veteran Alex Möller nevertheless p[ublic]ly supported him.

Zundel himself publicly stated th[at he] did not want any party suppor[t ...] promptly captured 80 per cent o[f the] vote.

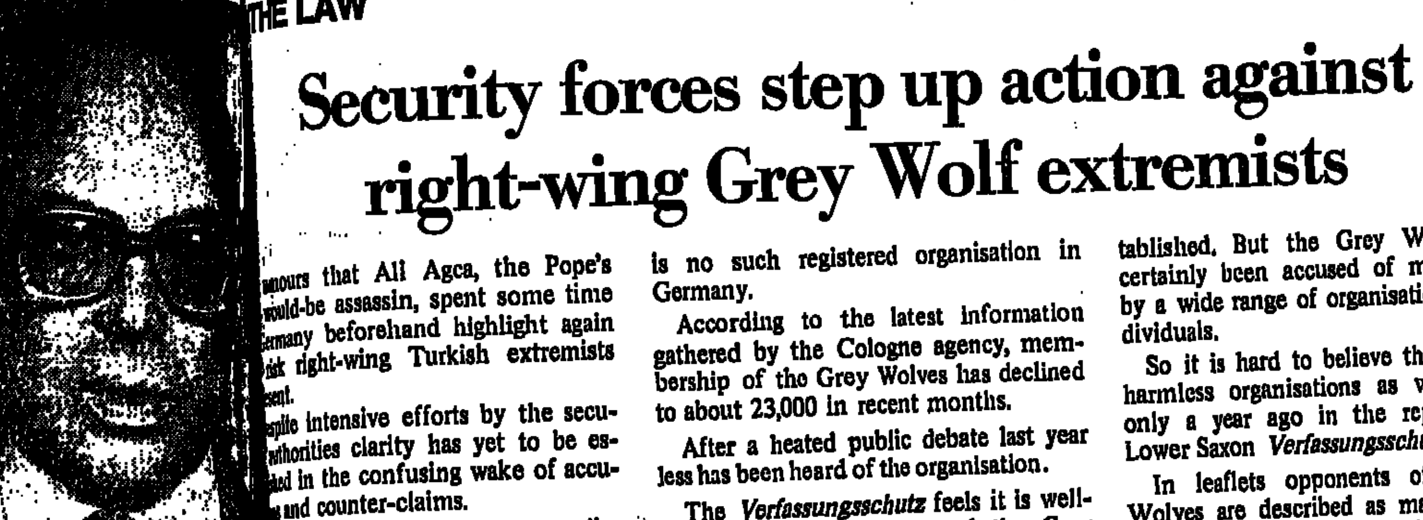
But the CDU supported him the[...] not putting up a candidate.

Former CDU Education M[inister] Wilhelm Hahn, who, togethe[r ...] Zundel, had fought against the Pa[tients'] Collective and the Heidelberg Uni[versity] rector, Rolf Rendtorff, publicly su[pport]ed the Heidelberg mayor.

Jörg Bisch[...]

(Die Zeit, 15 Ma[y 1981])

[T]HE LAW



Security forces step up action against right-wing Grey Wolf extremists

[R]umours that Ali Agca, the Pope's would-be assassin, spent some time [in G]ermany beforehand highlight again [...] right-wing Turkish extremists [...]ent.

[De]spite intensive efforts by the secu[rity a]uthorities clarity has yet to be es[tablish]ed in the confusing wake of accu[sation]s and counter-claims.

[The] available facts are too contradic[tory. G]erman investigators know too lit[tle ab]out the mentality of Turkish ex[tremi]sts, especially when religious and [politic]al fanaticism are combined.

[Th]e language barrier alone for long [wa]s a virtually insurmountable obstacle [to a]ny attempt to glean information [abou]t Turkish right-wing extremists in [Ger]many.

[O]nly lately has the *Verfassungsschutz*, [the] Office for the Protection of the Con[stitu]tion, hired enough staff who speak [Tur]kish.

[B]esides Turkish right-wingers, unlike [the]ir left-wing counterparts, have suc[ceed]ed in conveying to the authorities [the] impression of being good citizens: [vehe]mently anti-Communist but law-[abid]ing.

Thus right-wingers were long under[esti]mated, while Turkish left-wingers [wit]h their radical Marxist slogans were [speed]ily pigeonholed and soon came to the [att]ention of the Cologne anti-espionage [age]ncy.

[Cre]dits are certainly now agreed that [Turkis]h right-wingers made headway in [Germ]any last year and the year before. [The] latest *Verfassungsschutz* report puts [the] number of organised right-wing ex[tremi]sts and nationalists at 29,000.

They include members of organisa[tions] such as the Turkish Union in Eu[rop]e and the National Viewpoint Orga[nisa]tion. They are backed by the Natio[nal] Salvation Party and have about 3,000 [mem]bers.

Then comes the Federation of Demo[crat]ic Turkish Idealists' Associations in [Euro]pe, backed by the National Move[men]t Party and boasting an estimated [...]00 members.

On account of the symbol they use, [mem]bers of this organisation are often [kno]wn as Grey Wolves, although there is no such registered organisation in Germany.

According to the latest information gathered by the Cologne agency, membership of the Grey Wolves has declined to about 23,000 in recent months.

After a heated public debate last year less has been heard of the organisation.

The *Verfassungsschutz* feels it is well-briefed on the activities of the Grey Wolves but faces the problem that the organisation repeatedly calls on its members to abide by German law.

Proof has yet to be provided that the Grey Wolves or similar organisations actually call on their members to engage in acts of violence.

Whenever members are involved in excesses the Grey Wolves as a rule claim they were provoked by left-wing extremists among their fellow-countrymen.

The Cologne agency is still far from sure of its ground, however. Despite any number of accusations levelled at the Grey Wolves by German trade unions, churches and politicians it has yet to clarify matters.

In not a single case has the accuracy of either claim or counter-claim been established. But the Grey Wolves have certainly been accused of many things by a wide range of organisations and individuals.

So it is hard to believe they are such harmless organisations as was claimed only a year ago in the report of the Lower Saxon *Verfassungsschutz*.

In leaflets opponents of the Grey Wolves are described as mad dogs and the like. This verbal extremism was long underestimated.

"Everywhere in the world the Communist imperialists are planning bloodshed and revolution," another leaflet proclaimed, "and they are doing in our country too with the aim of destroying the Muslim Turkish nation.

"You too must take part in the holy, courageous struggle of the idealists against Communist groups!"

When the organisation was set up in 1976 funds were raised with the comment: "Every deutschemark donated is a bullet that deserves to be fired into a Communist's brain."

As for the seemingly law-abiding behaviour of the Grey Wolves, Party leader Türkes had this to say to his German supporters in a letter the contents of which were revealed last year:

"In order not to attract the attention of local authorities you must organise Party activities as though you constantly bore in mind the regulations governing clubs and friendly societies.

"The security forces must not be dealt any trumps in this connection, so commandos and idealists must abide by the instructions and wishes of Party headquarters (in intimidating Communist elements and taking action against readers of left-wing newspapers)."

The meaning of the term "action" in this context is regularly explained by Turkish workers at trade union gatherings. It ranges from threats, blackmail in the form of enforced donations, beatings and knifings to murder.

On 5 January 1980 Celattin Kesim, a Turkish teacher, was knifed to death by a right-wing extremist fellow-countryman.

The accusations levelled by writer Jürgen Roth and SPD Bundestag MPs Thüsing and Coppik go even further.

They claim a large number of right-wing terrorists and Grey Wolves with para-military training who are on the wanted lists in Turkey have been able to go into hiding in Germany.

Turkish Fascists are also alleged to be heavily involved in heroin trafficking in this country.

But *Verfassungsschutz* officials are unable to say one way or another whether these serious allegations are true.

Stefan Geiger

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 15 May 1981)

Increase in violence prompts special ministers' meeting

Federal and *Land* government Interior Ministers met recently in special session in Bonn to discuss the increase in the number of crimes of violence and breaches of the law.

Christian Democrat Uwe Barschel, Interior Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, tried at the closing Press conference to make the meeting out to have been a success.

But the course of the Press conference did little to bear out the claims made by Dr Barschel, the current chairman of the Standing Conference of Federal and *Land* Interior Ministers.

What he said was promptly claified and the record set right by Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum, a Free Democrat.

Social Democrat Herbert Schnoor, Interior Minister of North Rhine-Wesphalia, was promptly corrected by Dr Barschel on behalf of his Christian Democratic colleagues.

Herr Baum was probably more to the point when he summarised the outcome of the talks as "a very precise consensus on dissension in respect of a number of issues."

In principle, of course, the Ministers were agreed. The use of violence and other breaches of the law was to be condemned, for instance.

Causes and motives must be subjected to detailed scrutiny from an overall social viewpoint. The Ministers were anxious to do all they could to ensure the safety of the peace of law and of the community.

They agreed, however, that this could not be ensured solely by police means. But these were all points on which they could have agreed without meeting in special session.

More important and altogether more urgent issues were raised by the police. How was increasing militancy on the part of a number of demonstrators effectively to be combated? How could individual police officers be better equipped?

Above all, what weapons short of firearms should the police be equipt with to cope with such situations?

No-one really knew. The Ministers disagreed on rubber bullets, a much-discussed subject. No conclusion was reached but the general trend was that rubber or plastic bullets were too dangerous and ought not to be approved.

The subject was shelved for discussion at the end of the year.

The Ministers likewise agreed to disagree on whether the laws governing demonstrations ought to be beefed up establishing new offences.

The conference, it it be said, does not enjoy supra-regional authority. It merely confers, reaching agreement on guidelines.

Social and Free Democrats were against tougher legislation. Christian Democrats were in favour and announced their intention of introducing legislation to this effect.

In doing so they disregarded what the conference had previously emphasised: that existing law on demonstrations entitles the authorities to impose conditions such as a ban on covering faces to make participants unrecognisable and a ban on what in legal parlance are known as passive weapons.

The Police Federation has called for a law making this latter provision mandatory.

When demonstrations look like causing trouble the authorities have legal ways and means of either ordering the demonstrations to be held elsewhere or banning them entirely.

So it is no loss that the Ministers failed to agree on a harder line, just as they failed to agree to a tougher approach in respect of rubber bullets.

The past must surely have shown that a hard line is not in itself enough to cope with the phenomenon of youthful protest.

The aim can surely not be to nip in the bud both readiness to resort to violence and, as Dr. Barschel put it (inadvertently, let us hope), "the potential for protest and unrest."

It is not the Interior Ministers' duty to make peace and quiet the citizen's foremost obligation.

Ada Brandes

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 17 May 1981)

Illusion of compromise

Continued from page 2

[thro]ughout Europe. The East wants noth[ing] of the kind.

Then there is the proposed European [Disar]mament conference. The East Bloc [wou]ld prefer its terms of reference to be [non]-committal, whereas the Western [and] neutral countries would like them [spel]t out in detail.

The Soviet Union continues to be in[tere]sted in the Madrid conference be[caus]e it is keen to get the go-ahead for [the] disarmament conference it has sug[gest]ed.

The debate in the West about the [two]fold Nato decision has been so [ext]ensive and controversial that the [Kre]mlin hopes to bring even greater in[flu]ence to bear on public opinion in the West once the disarmament conference is in progress.

But it needs the disarmament conference as a propaganda device soon, before Western parliaments coordinate defence spending in connection with the proposed arms modernisation programme.

So time is short for Moscow, which is nonetheless not prepared for the time being to pay the price the West demands, that of demonstrating its credibility by undertaking convincing confidence-building measures.

The Soviet Union is thus going to have to wait a long time for the green light from Madrid. At present it is still red, with not as much as a hint of amber.

Siegfried Löffler

(Der Tagesspiegel, 17 May 1981)

■ FINANCE

Exports again the key to recuperation



When Karl Schiller was Bonn's super finance and economic affairs minister in the 1960s, he enriched the economic terminology by a number of catchwords that were to gain great popularity.

He was the man who overcame the 1966/67 economic crisis by following a demand-side growth policy — a concept considered passé today.

Even before his second shot in the arm for the nation's sagging economy became effective in 1967, exports began to pull the cart out of the mire so efficiently that the economy showed signs of overheating only a year later.

Exports have frequently provided decisive growth impulses after periods of economic decline.

When the first decline following the 1973/74 oil shock set in, orders from abroad dropped between mid-1974 and the spring of 1975 by about 20 per cent, only to rally later and become the motor of recovery.

In 1976, orders were up by 25 per cent and the value of exports rose by 16 per cent.

Now again hopes are pinned on exports to pull us out of the employment slump.

The balance of trade in the first quarter of this year for the first time showed DM200m more imports than exports. Only a year earlier, we had a trade surplus of more than DM2.7bn. But this trade imbalance has not been due to lack of effort by exporters.

Though exports rose by 2.7 per cent against the same period the previous year, imports went up 6.2 per cent; and in March the import growth stood at a whacking 16 per cent while exports were up only 8 per cent.

There are two reasons for this imbalance:

- The high import figure is partly due to prices. This is most clearly recognisable from the fact that despite cutting down on oil consumption more was spent on oil. Imports of oil, natural gas and oil-based products virtually doubled from 1978 to 1980 in terms of value. Now, these imports account for more than 25 per cent of our total imports.
- In a number of sectors (above all consumer goods), our competitiveness has suffered so much that the supplier nations have been able to corner even larger market shares despite their higher inflation rates and despite the fact that the depreciation of the deutschemark has made their goods more expensive in this country.

This import vortex can only be countered by energy savings and by bolstering our competitiveness. The latter is also a decisive element in promoting exports.

What are Germany's export prospects? Most of our buyer countries are also in economic decline. In fact, world trade (in terms of quantity) is likely to diminish this year — for the first time since 1975. This means that international competition will become fiercer.

In the struggle for market shares, the German economy benefits by its low inflation rate. Countries with stable currencies are ahead in the export game as long as their goods do not become more expensive for foreign buyers.

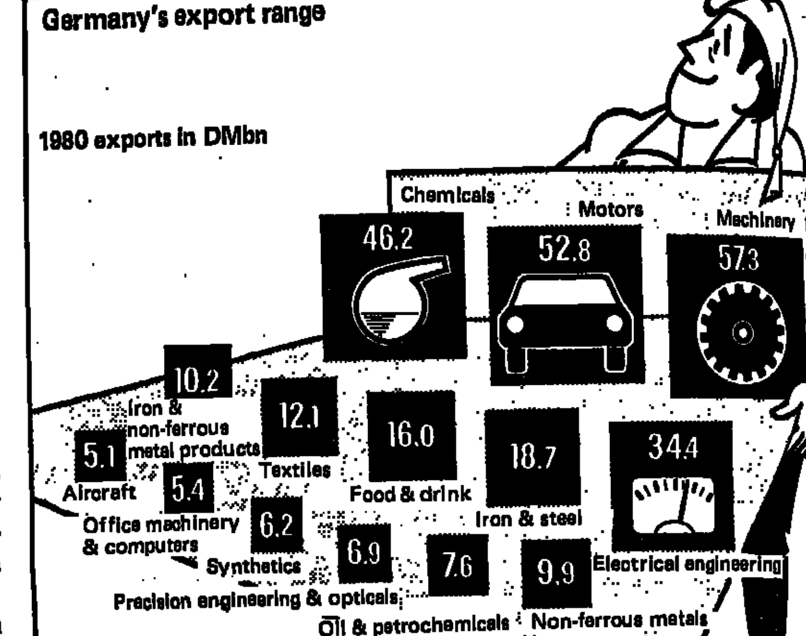
This has been no problem for this country in the past 18 months. On the contrary, the value of the deutschemark against the dollar declined by 23.6 per cent from the end of 1979 to the end of 1980. Against the currencies of our other major trading partners the decline was 13.5 per cent.

The fact that foreign demand (in terms of value and quantity) has risen since late summer last year is largely due to such monetary aspects.

But it would be wrong to conclude that a further depreciation of the deutschemark would be a good thing, as some critics of the current Bundesbank policy maintain.

In the times when the deutschemark was appreciating, this very fact helped to offset the effects on our balance of trade of higher import prices. But this is no longer the case. The heavy increase of the value of imports as a result of prices has exerted pressure on the deutschemark and so led to higher prices and hence imported inflation. It is this that has prevented our heavy balance of payments deficit from improving.

There is yet another reason why we cannot afford a weak deutschemark in the long run: foreigners who invest their money in this country lead to a further deterioration of the deutschemark exchange rate when switching to another currency.



Only low prices and product superiority can improve our competitiveness in the long run. But reasonable prices for export goods presuppose reasonable costs and relatively high productivity — and here we have nothing to boast about.

Labour costs and prices for imported primary energy and raw materials are still going up while profits which are needed to streamline production are going down.

Interest levels are too high and interest subsidies for exports in other industrial countries that compete with us have risen.

As a result, there is more and more pressure to erect import barriers — nothing new in times of a sagging world economy.

The indebtedness of many dev[eloping] countries restricts export credits [...] and further, and the Polish dilem[ma is] casting a shadow on overall exp[orts to] the East Bloc.

As a rule, poor economic perfor[mance] at home forces business to step u[p ex]ports. But this time export suc[cess will] presuppose the conclusion of adap[tation] processes in the entire cost and pr[oduc]tion structure of our export industry.

This is a challenge that has n[ot yet] been fully understood with all its [rami]fications. This challenge calls for [greater] sacrifices by all than those conc[erned] have hitherto been prepared to make.

As a result, the contention th[at] exports will once more pull us o[ut of] the mire must be viewed with some [re]servations.

Walter Trautm[...]

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 14 May 1[981])

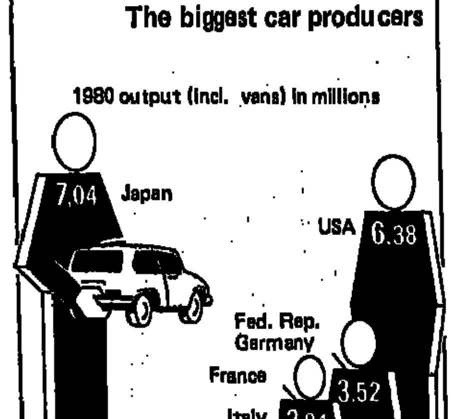
Japan's selling success poses new economic equation

Japanese exports have become a bogeyman for the industrial world.

The invention of the steam engine in Britain in the last century made that country the world's leading industrial power. But Britain had to relinquish its place to America which developed the car, the aircraft and the computer. America has been ahead ever since.

But since microprocessors revolutionised manufacturing processes, the possibility of Japan becoming the world's leading industrial power of the 1980s has become very real.

For some branches of industry in West Germany, this is already a bitter





reality. The textile industry, ship-building, the manufacture of precision and optical instruments, the computer industry and consumer electronics were among the first victims.

Japan's automobile exports began attacking one of the Western world's key industries.

The alarm was sounded in this country when Japanese cars accounted for one-fifth of Germany's imports from that country, outstripping electronics.

For a long time a market share of ten per cent for Japanese cars in Germany has considered the magic limit. But this has long been outstripped.

The French and the Italians complained most about the Japanese export offensive — though they were not very convincing because their governments, like that of Britain, concluded bilateral agreements with Japan to ward off the offensive, notwithstanding the fact that they thus violated European Community law.

As things stand, the Federal Republic of Germany is the only major and genuinely free market for automobiles still remaining in Europe.

As a result, none of the tranquilisers administered by Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff to Germany's auto makers have allayed the appre[hen]sion that this country is becom[ing a] dump for those cars which Japan [can] no longer export to the United States.

In an act of unsurpassed selfis[hness] in matters of trade, the Reagan Ad[mi]nistration has managed to make the [Ja]panese government agree to a three[-year] self restriction deal at the cost of o[thers].

Japan has undertaken to e[xport] 140,000 cars fewer to the United S[tates] than originally planned.

Small wonder, then, that the Am[eri]can car industry, which had faile[d to] adapt in good time and switch to s[mal]ler cars, praises the agreement as a [wel]come breathing space.

The Reagan Administration, on [the] other hand, is proud not to have re[sort]ed to classical import restrictions s[uch as] tariffs and quotas.

But this is a fallacy inasmuch as [self-]restriction agreements are part of [the] trade arsenal that should be outlaw[ed in] the free world.

Though the Bonn Economic A[ffairs] Minister and the German car ind[ustry] will uphold the banner of free t[rade] (and the figures for March show th[at] German manufacturers have manag[ed to] stand their ground) the American-[Japa]nese deal has changed the situation.

Should the Japanese lower [their] prices, VW, Opel and Ford would [prob]ably jettison their free trade banne[r and] start clamouring (together with [their] EEC partners) for protectionist mea[sures].

And the trade unions are likel[y to] join them for fear of rising unem[ploy]ment.

Though understandable, this wo[uld be] wrong. A country like the Feder[al Re]public of Germany, where one [...]

Continued on page 7

TECHNOLOGY

Engineers produce answer to call for revival of the tram-car

[Th]e tram-car, which began transport[in]g the public 100 years ago in Ber[lin, a]ppears to be on the verge of a [comeb]ack.

[Plan]ners are taking the it seriously [aft]er a phasing-out period during [which] 45 cities and towns in Germany [tore] up the lines.

[In 1]930, the height of the era of the [tram, mo]re than 170 cities used trams. [Thirty] years ago only 79 did, and now [the]re only 33.

[Ther]e is now only 1,690km of track, [ha]lf of 1951: Hamburg has dug up [...], West Berlin 131km, Aachen and [...] 50km each and Mönchenglad[bach] 25km.

[Th]e tram has disappeared entirely [from] such cities as West Berlin, Ham[burg,] Saarbrücken, Regensburg, Mönch[englad]bach, Pforzheim, Reutlingen, Dü[ren an]d Neunkirchen.

[An]d there are two thirds fewer tram[s] than in 1951. In 1962 they provided [... p]er cent of public transport in me[tropol]itan areas; by 1979 this had [dropp]ed to 18 per cent.

[Unti]l now 11 German cities are plan[ning] to develop networks once more [and] three more which intended doing [away] with their systems are having se[cond] thoughts.

[So] how is it that just a few years ago [the tra]m-car was considered to anachro[nistic,] superfluous, unprofitable and in[...]

[Wh]y is the technical fossil dating [from] the turn of the century and fit [only] for museum and scrapyards now [back] in favour?

[Th]e reason for its demise was grow[ing ca]r traffic. And at a time when oil [price]s hardly mattered, municipalities [deci]ded on the switch to buses.

[Un]derground systems were also ex[tended] to absorb more traffic.

[Bu]t in 1979, the phasing out came to [a h]ead under pressure of public discus[sion] on energy and the environment.

[Mas]sive protests, plus new city planning concepts and political common sense won the day.



All aboard: contemporary depiction of the first tram-car which 100 years ago this month began service over a 2 1/2 km round route in Berlin. (Photo: Siemens)

One expert, Gerhard Scholtis, who is in charge of technical planning of tram-cars at Siemens, said: "Car traffic did not keep its promise. The conurbations are choking."

Other experts say the tram is more efficient in terms of passengers carried and use of available space.

This is why the return to the tram is not limited to Germany.

In the GDR, the tram has never lost its position as the urban transport number one; 27 East German cities account for a network of 1,572km, giving the GDR the world's most dense tram network relatively to area and population.

There, the tram accounts for 61 per cent of public transport in urban areas.

In fact, not only East Germany but other East Bloc countries as well are in the process of revamping their tram systems.

Scholtis: "We have been observing for several years the growing interest in metropolitan rail transport.

"City and rail administrations are now making a bid to modernise and expand their systems. Automobile traffic did not keep its promise, and conurbations are choking on it. This has led to the rethinking process.

"Initially, the idea was to provide an attractive form of metropolitan trans- through a good underground system. But this solution is costly and pays only with extremely heavy traffic. Today's approach is 'light rail'. In other words, cost efficient systems resembling trams."

Light rail is now expected to prove an ace in the hole when it comes to solving short-haul metropolitan transport problems, and is said to have an edge over both buses and underground systems.

This development is particularly pronounced in the USA and Canada where car traffic has resigned supreme up to now.

Although most old trams have been shunted off, some of them have survived, as in Boston, San Francisco, Philadelphia and New Orleans.

These networks are now in the process of being technically revamped and equipped with new rolling stock.

Philadelphia alone has ordered from Japan 141 new cars with seating for 50 each to be used from the middle of next year. Light rail is also the solution for many of those American cities that did away with their trams years ago, among them San Diego, which is now laying tracks for 25km and has bought 14 cars.

The $75m price tag is to be paid mainly by local petrol taxes — a total about-face in America's metropolitan transport policy.

Be it in America or in Canada or in Western Europe or the Third World, the comeback of the tram-car seems to be a ubiquitous phenomenon — exactly 100 years after the first tram began operations.

This was in West Berlin on 16 May 1881. That tram operated on a 2.5km route and at the unheard of speed of 30kph. It was a Siemens & Halske experimental line.

Willy Lützenkirchen

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 8 May 1981)

Continued from page 6

[... d]epends on exports, can only be [the los]er in a trade war.

[Eco]nomic policy makers are now [faced] with an entirely new phenomenon.

[In] the 1960s, the Americans were [consi]dered the great challenge until it [turne]d out that there was an enormous [...]ant potential in Europe's industry [when] it had to compete with the Ameri[cans] on European soil and under equal [condi]tions.

[So] why not invite the Japanese to es[tablis]h an automobile industry on Ger[man] soil, with German workers and [produc]ing under the same conditions as [their G]erman counterpart?

[Th]at would in no way detract from [Germ]an technological superiority but it [woul]d stimulate its German competitors [to ma]ke an all-out effort — and in the [long] run this would at last defuse the [Japa]nese threat.

Rudolf Herlt

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 May 1981)

An industrial monument unveiled again

A monument erected in 1931 has just been unveiled — for the second time.

The first unveiling was in Alexisbad to mark the 75th anniversary of the German Engineers Society (VDI).

Now the GDR has released the monument which has been re-erected and unveiled outside the Düsseldorf headquarters of the society to mark the 125th anniversary.

In his address, VDI President Professor Becker retraced the history of the organisation whose affiliates include TÜV (the technical testing society), DIN and the German Museum.

The unveiling of the monument also marked the unveiling of a piece of German industrial history.

Germany which, at the beginning of the last century, was divided into many states was at a great disadvantage against other leading industrial nations such as Britain and France.

Technologies had to be imported (a situation comparable to that of Japan 100 years later) if Germany was to become a leading industrial nation.

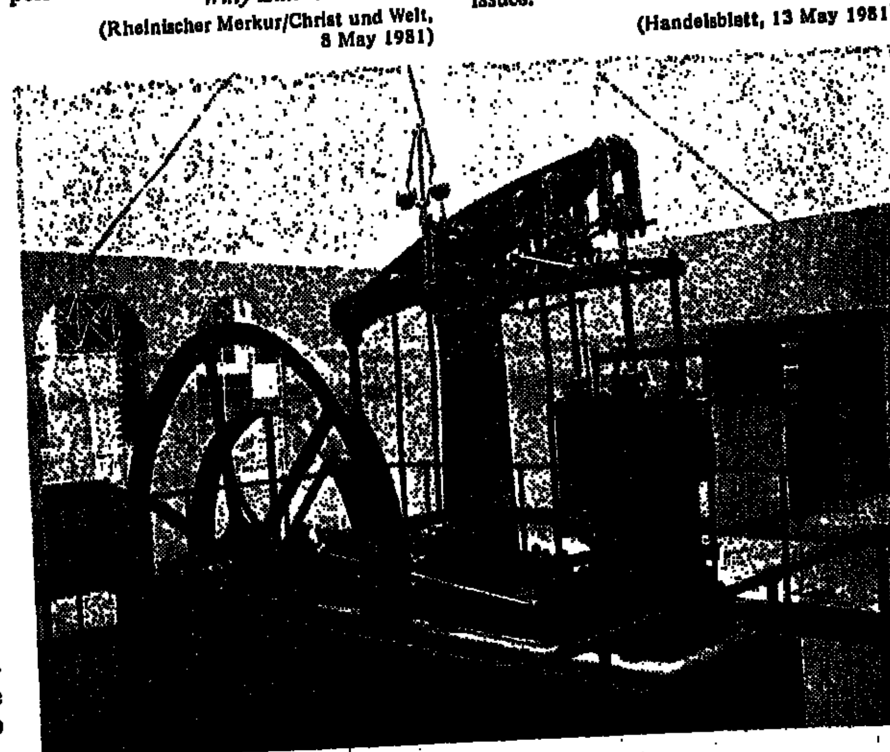
To promote the exchange of experience among German engineers, the former members of a student organisation decided to found the VDI as a focal point of German technology and in the interests of German industry as a whole.

With its 75,000 members, the VDI is now Europe's largest technical-scientific society. It has 13 subsidiaries specialised in a number of fields, among them commissions for airs purity and noise abatement.

The VDI organises some 80 congresses a year and holds 220 further education courses.

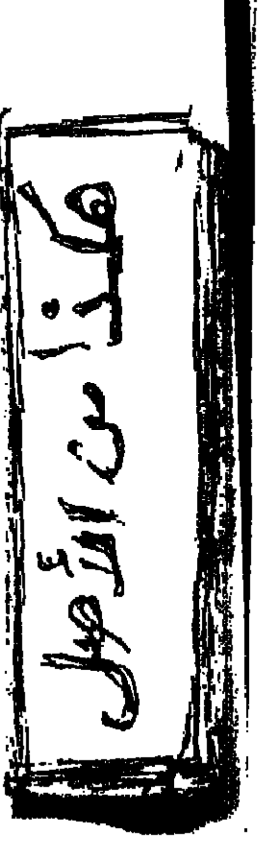
The VDI publishing house covers a wide area of technical publications while its work group "The Engineer — Career and Society" deals with the assessment of technology in the socio-economic system, history of technology and legal issues.

(Handelsblatt, 13 May 1981)



Steam veteran

This sturdy steam-powered veteran of 19th-century engineering, testifying in its ample proportions and pleasing design to an age a far cry from our own, is one of the exhibits at a show held in West Berlin to mark the 125th anniversary of VDI, the Association of German Engineers, and entitled The History of Engineering from 1800 to the Present and Its Relationship with the Arts. (Photo: VDI)



■ RESEARCH

End 'may be in sight' to animal cancer tests

Laboratory cancer testing of animals might not be necessary in 10 years, a scientist told a conference in Hanover.

Professor Mohr, of Hanover, told the delegates that he was "hazarding a guess."

But the conference, of research scientists who work with laboratory animals, heard that methods of testing not laboratory animals but suitable human cells are being developed.

Anti-visectionists picketed the conference, but not until the second day.

On the first day, there weren't enough of them.

A small group gathered hesitantly on the second morning brandishing placards saying:

"Animals Today, Humans Tomorrow. No Scientific Experiments With Laboratory Animals!"

They gradually edged forward half-way towards the large lecture theatre where the conference was in session and scientists were debating to whom dedicated anti-vivisectionists are implacably opposed.

"Scientists who experiment with laboratory animals are creatures of a very special kind," they claim. "We should be careful before calling them human beings."

The animal libbers conducted their debate at a less exalted level than the research scientists in every sense of the word.

They failed to bridge the gap between themselves and the scientists, which is a fundamental problem of the entire emotion-laden discussion on the subject.

The conference, held under the aegis of the Scientific Research Association, dealt specially with laboratory animals and in particular with what could well be termed the crux of the entire issue.

Are models drawn up on the strength of experiments with laboratory animals suitable for use in connection with humans? If not, they are of little use to clinical medicine.

This question was deliberately chosen by the conference organisers in view of perennial claims that experiments with laboratory animals are no use.

So the scientific debate was intended to assemble facts that might carry conviction with the knowledgable anti-vivisectionist.

Unfortunately, the facts were marshalled in such rarefied scientific terminology that this bid could hardly be expected to have more than limited success.

Assurances were made that the scientists hoped anti-vivisectionists would join the debate, intended as it was to foster a more objective view of the issue.

But although they may have been well-meant they could hardly be rated seriously meant as matters stood.

The starting point of the discussion was the age-old question on which anti-vivisectionists too are divided:

Could it not be the case that differences between individual species are so coincidental there is no way of reducing them to a common denominator?

If this were so, laboratory experiments on animals would necessarily be art for art's sake, sacrificing a living creature at the altar of a desire for knowledge that was way out of touch with practice.

Basic research specialists at this point reiterated their well-known views, adducing yet more advanced theories on the genetic system and arguments from comparative biology in support of their point, which was that there are regular patterns, laws, with the aid of which distinctions between species can be precisely ascertained.

With their aid inferences could also be made from one species in respect of another, including our own, at least as far as basic biological functions were concerned.

If this were true, it then followed that individual species were also susceptible to the same diseases.

Medical researchers are more interested in whether this general assumption works in particular, small-scale instances — whether, that is, what is true of mice is also true of men.

At the end of the debate the result of a wide-ranging discussion seemed incontrovertible for the scientists at the conference.

"It is growing increasingly clear," as one American physiologist and specialist in clinical medicine put it, "that there are hundreds of diseases in animals that in all probability occur in the same manner in man."

He himself had conducted research into a complaint suffered by laboratory rats the basics of which are readily apparent even to the layman.

It is the Brattleboro Rat, a research rodent discovered 20 years ago. It provided medical research with a natural model of a kidney complaint that occurs in exactly the same manner in man.

By virtue of a genetic defect the rat lacks a hormone that is essential for the concentration of urine. As a result it needs to consume enormous quantities of liquid, up to 20 litres a day, resulting in a corresponding output of urine.

Medical science knows how to treat kidney complaints but does not yet know what causes them, so it would like to find out how to get at the root of the trouble rather than merely doctor away at symptoms.

That is why they set such store by work with laboratory animals. It is, they say, like looking into the black box and examining a model of normal and pathological basic functions and mechanisms of the human body.

A review of research into rheumatoid diseases indicated how conclusive the evidence was that what applied to animals also applied to man.

The genetic and immune biological model provided by the mouse is very similar to the way the human body works. An antigen can be used to give mice arthritis, for instance.

Documentary proof was provided to show that arthritis in mice has a number of important characteristics identical with those that occur in man.

Research science has demonstrated that one form of rheumatism occurs in connection with a genetical defect. Ten years after proving the point with mice it was shown to be true of man too.

A glance at experimental pathology indicates the extent experiments with laboratory animals can reach. Between 600 and 700 laboratory animals, mostly rodents, are used to test a single chemical substance for carcinogenic properties.

This is an instance in which laboratory animals have so far come up with the most reliable information.

But so far only the individual effect of an individual substance has proved demonstrable, never the cumulative effect that needs taking into account in connection with environmental influences, for instance.

Here, however, scientists are working on methods of testing not laboratory animals but suitable individual human cells. This they term a contribution towards preventing cruelty to animals, but it is also to cut costs.

Professor Mohr of Hanover felt so bold as to hazard a guess that laboratory animals might be dispensed with in carcinogenic tests within say 10 years.

Prevention of cruelty to animals must be one objective, said Professor Gärtner of Hanover veterinary college.

As the conference drew to a close he said he now felt easier about supporting the hypothesis that what applied to animals also applied to man. This made it easier to ascertain the extent to which experiments with laboratory animals were advisable.

But there is still a world of difference between prevention of cruelty to animals as seen by a research scientist whose work involves experimenting with them and anti-vivisectionists of the kind who picketed the conference.

A Heidelberg medical student has applied to an administrative court in Karlsruhe to be exempted from taking part in experiments with laboratory animals in his physiology course.

Irmtraud Rippel-Manss

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 May 1981)

Strict chemical registration control comes into force despite administrative hitch

The Chemicals Act, one of the world's most advanced and strictest catalogue of regulations to protect mankind from the growing number of chemical substances, nearly came to grief becuase of a Bonn Cabinet squabble over who was responsible for what.

Ministers did not settle their differences until pressure of time obliged them to do so. But the Act can now come into force from the beginning of next year as originally intended.

Agreement has been reached on entrusting only three authorities with trials of chemical substances. This meant a victory for Health Minister Antje Huber over Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff and Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl.

Both wanted an additional agency subordinated to their respective Ministries to be involved in the testing and licensing process too.

This decision puts paid for the time being to fears of the Federal Audit Office and environmental specialists that the Act might be rendered less effective by an overdose of bureaucracy.

New chemical substances will now be required to be registered with the Federal Labour and Industrial Injuries Institute in Dortmund, and with this agency only.

This agency will relay the information to the Federal Environment Office and the Federal Health Office, both in Berlin. In exceptional instances two other agencies may also be consulted.

The main aim of the Act is to ensure precautionary action. The effects of angerous chemicals are to be ascertained beforehand and not, as now can be the case, after the event.

A further principle to be observed is that the culprit must foot the bill. All manufacturers and importers will be under statutory obligation to advise everyone who comes into contact with chemicals of the dangerous effects they may have.

That will include regulations governing suitable packaging.

In the case of hitherto unknown chemicals or substances not previously marketed a test procedure is laid down that the manufacturer must undertake, submitting the findings with his application for registration.

The chemical cannot be marketed until 45 days after registration. Existing chemicals may also be required to undergo the same procedure.

But this will only be the case when there are grounds for assuming they might be dangerous. The Act does not provide for tests of all existing chemicals as a general rule.

All political parties in the Bonn Bundestag are agreed that a Chemicals Act is urgently needed. They gave the Bill unanimous approval in June 1980 despite a number of inadequacies and the chemical industry's submission that neither people at work nor consumers need have any particular fear of chemicals.

MPs were well aware that the Chemicals Act broke extremely difficult ground, but as state secretary Hartkopf of the Interior Ministry put it, people could not be left on their own with fears of environmental disasters and creeping contamination in virtually all spheres of daily life.

The Act is designed in particular to ensure checks on the steadily growing number of new chemicals.

There are already more than 45,000 marketed in the Federal Republic of Germany, and an estimated 3,000 new substances a year make their appearance within the EEC.

About 3,000 chemicals already in use in Germany are reckoned to be potentially dangerous. Between 200 and 500 newcomers a year may be dangerous too.

Some 200,000 people a year suffer from poisoning. About 6,000 die.

One of the most vehemently debated aspects of the Act is what is to be done with chemical waste. Both the trade unions and environmentalists say it too should be made subject to licensing procedures.

The 45-day deadline has also come in for criticism. Both organisations (and a number of MPs) would prefer a cooling-off period of 90 days. During this period the manufacturer's or importer's submissions can be checked.

Despite these shortcomings the Bundestag felt there was no viable alternative if chemicals were to be effectively brought under control, unless, that is, they were dispensed with entirely.

This was the recommendation made by former Bonn MP Herbert Gruhl, who was the only MP to vote against the Bill. Herr Gruhl, then a Christian Democrat, is now a leading environmentalist.

Hermann Frühauf

(Allgemeine Zeitung, 14 May 1981)

■ THE ARTS

Grieshaber: political and artistic crusader

HAP Grieshaber, who has died of *heart failure aged 72 in his* Swabian home near Reutlingen, hated being called a committed *artist.*

For HAP (short for Helmut Andreas Paul) art was a form of expression that of necessity called for conviction.

And, since he unflinchingly believed in the power of art to get things moving and have some effect, he dedicated him*self to it with the unerring intention of* living strictly in accordance with his ideas of humanity, freedom, justice and attunement with nature.

HAP, whose initials were a byword for contemporary woodcuts, never failed to criticise violence or terror.

In 1933 he published an anti-fascist *Deutsche Zeitung* in Greece that earned *him a career ban when he had to return* to the Reich.

He was equally consistent in the post-war years, producing series of woodcuts pillorying oppression, as in the colonels' Greece and Chile.

This is how an artist in many ways beyond comparison, living in seclusion in the Swabian countryside yet very much involved in world affairs, enjoyed a *high reputation* in both German states.

Grieshaber felt himself no doubt to be an *intermediary between the blocs,* a man whose oeuvre and person surmounted the division of Germany.

But he owed the reputation he universally enjoyed not only to his political views, to his consistent criticism of inhumanity and injustice, but also to a *form that reconciled* tradition with modernity.

He readily made use of the sources of modernity, cubism and abstract art, but invariably remained true to the factual because he always had something to day.

He thus arrived at an unmistakable style of his own, combining originality and expression in an extremely elegant *form.*

Large forms covering an extensive surface area stand in contrast to finely turned lines. Harmony seldom appears to be in jeopardy.

Where he works in several colours and the colours stand apart from the figures or are superimposed on them, giving depth, HAP Grieshaber the artist *and printer* shows signs of Grieshaber the painter.

All his life he remained true to the landscape he hailed from. To it he owed the strength to carry out his work, important suggestions for his formal language, the pleasing and the round and even in the original and powerful quality of his work.

Just as he derived strength from the landscape, so he also thrived on history. He was a craftsman in the best of traditions and felt this to be a distinctive feature of his artistry.

In Reutlingen he served an apprenticeship as a compositor. Even at a ripe *old age* he waged a determined fight against what he felt was a mechanical and electronic *reduction of the printer's* art to superficiality.

Craftsmanship in book printing was for him form of part. It was no coincidence he found the woodcut, resusci*tated by the expressionists,* to be a mode of expression that suited him down to the ground.

In post-war Germany Grieshaber emerged as the master of the woodcut. By devoting himself with the intensity of a man possessed and dedicating him*self exclusively* to the woodcut, a technique requiring all his physical power, he made the woodcut into more than a mere illustration.

Many of his prints create a monumental impression that makes one forget their origin. Series such as The Dark World of Animals, African Passion, Peasants' War and the Basle Dance of Death rank among the [illegible] *achievements of post-war* German [illegible]

At times Grieshaber surrounded himself with up to 40 animals at his [illegible] home, as though he were living in [illegible] Ark, but he never lived the life of a hermit.

He always remembered his [illegible] artists. In 1976 he launched an [illegible] scheme for political artists in memory of Jerg Ratgeb, the artist of the 16th century Peasants' Wars.

Ratgeb and the anonymous [illegible] from the early days of book [illegible] were for Grieshaber more contemporary terms of reference than many a [illegible] day criterion.

He knew *how to activate* [illegible] and to cast in new moulds the [illegible] and Christian messages, *centuries* [illegible] craftsmanship and up-to-the-minute relevance.

Im Herzen der Welt schneidet [illegible] *Welt in unser Herz* (In the heart of the world he *cuts* the world into our [illegible]) wrote Rose Ausländer on the occasion of his 70th birthday in *1979.*

Dirk Schwarz

(Rheinische Post, 14 May 1981)



HAP Grieshaber

(Photo: [illegible])

TV play pioneer dies at 59

Fritz Umgelter, who has died aged 59, was hailed by *Hessischer Rundfunk* as a pioneer of TV plays in Germany and the first editorial staffer to specialise in TV series.

One of the most prominent TV direc*tors in Germany, Umgelter was found dead in his Munich apartment, having* died of a heart attack.

He hailed from Württemberg and as a young man worked his way through every aspect of TV, the new medium, directing his first TV assignment in 1953.

After active service in the Second World War he had studied philology and worked as an actor, set designer and theatrical director before going to television.

In 1955 he was appointed head of TV plays, entertainment and documentaries at *Hessischer Rundfunk.* But he was unhappy with being deskbound and return*ed to directing as a freelancer.*

He directed plays for the stage but concentrated mainly on TV drama. His first major programme was *Held unserer Zeit* in 1959, followed by the six-part serial *So weit die Füsse tragen.*

In 1960 he directed the five-part Am grünen Strand der Spree. He also directed *Der Mann, der Donnerstag war, Prinz Friedrich von Homburg, Wer einmal aus dem Blechnapf frisst, Freundschaftsspiel, Den Tod in der Hand, Belagerungszustand, Die Affäre Eulenburg, Caroline, 7 Wochen auf dem Eis, Der Tanz des Sergeanten Musgrave, Wie eine Träne im Ozean* and *Bratkartoffeln inbegriffen.*

In 1971, in connection with Dürer Year in Nuremberg, he produced *Götz von Berlichingen.* From eight different versions of *Götz* he compiled a version designed to underscore his conviction that the 16th century knight was the prototype German.

The most recent work he directed included series entitled *Die merkwürdige Lebensgeschichte des Friedrich Freiherrn von der Trenck, Die unfreiwilligen Reisen des Moritz August Benjowski, Simplizissimus* and *Der Winter, der ein Sommer war.*

Only a few weeks before his death he finished work on his final production, *Das Traumschiff,* the story of a cruise in the Caribbean.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 12 May 1981)



Fritz Umgelter

(Photo: dpa)

Retrospective exhibition on the move

Barely three years after the major retrospective of paintings by Félix Vallotton, 1865—1925, Bremen Kunsthalle has arranged a travelling exhibition of the French artist's prints and drawings for various woodcuts.

From Bremen the exhibition will go to the Etching Cabinet of the State Museums in West Berlin and to the Neue Galerie in Kassel.

He worked with and on prints all his life, etching motifs from the Great Mas*ters to earn a living while studying the* masters in the Louvre and designing a number of ex libris for a Swiss art historian in 1923, two years before his death.

But his last major series of prints in his later years was undertaken seven years previously. It was *C'est la guerre,* dated 1915/16.

The greater part of his woodcuts were published between 1891 and 1898. This was the period when he made a name for himself among his contemporaries.

After an intensive relationship with the etching, a technique he, in close association with the Nabis, gradually developed into independent painterly effect, Vallotton turned to the woodcut in 1891.

He went on to develop an effective style of his own in the woodcut, a style most effective on the further course of graphic art.

In place of bodily differentiation he expressed all content in plain black and white surface. He avoided the illusion of space and the resulting painterly softening of forms.

His *content is expressed briefly and* almost symbolically in its immediacy, an immediacy that at times can hardly be surpassed. At the same time Vallotton also arrived at a number of ornamental forms that relieve the harsh contrast of black and white, building a stylistic bridge to *art nouveau.*

But his prints and drawings have another characteristic. They describe everyday Paris street scenes with a subtle, at times black humour, content being abbreviated and rendered in no uncertain terms.

There is a note of caricature in his drawing of faces. Unmistakable gestures underscore the simplified drama of his scenes, be they accidents, police against demonstrators, a scurry to get out of the rain or simple couples.

In Vallotton's drawing the so-called good old days are seen to have been an unruly period characterised by social and political conflict.

A special feature of the Bremen exhibition is that it shows both the finished woodcuts and the drawings on which they were based.

Vallotton undertook detailed preliminary drawings for each of his woodcuts. In some instances two or three drawings indicate the development leading up to the final composition.

But the final drawing is invariably *groundwork for the* woodcut. Even changes are apparent. As a general rule it can be said that the woodcuts are an improvement in both clarity and [illegible] ambiguity.

C'est la guerre prompted criticism at the time, albeit in view of its [illegible] *and unpatriotic character.*

Vallatton's attitude may not [illegible] criticism but the artistic result does [illegible] illustrates the horrors of war in a [illegible] superficial manner, and not very [illegible]ingly.

This last major series of woodcuts lacks expressionist power. Expressionism is inconceivable without Vallotton's woodcuts and drawings, or barely so, by this stage it had surpassed its [illegible]

Jürgen Weichardt

(Nordwest Zeitung, 9 May 1981)

■ HEALTH

Heidelberg group takes preventive medicine to the people

There is an increasing demand for the emphasis on health care to be put on prevention. Yet little is being done in practical terms despite talking, planning and research.

The demand is mainly because therapeutic medicine is proving incapable of coping with the illnesses of an industrial society.

Among the few who are actually doing something instead of waiting for government measures is a work group of Heidelberg University's Department for Clinical Social Medicine under professor Egbert Nüssel.

This year's Internists' Congress in Wiesbaden saw the presentation by the group of its pilot "Municipal Prevention Model", carried out in two towns, Eberbach and Wiesloch, in northern Baden.

The term "municipal" does not mean that the municipalities are financing the project. All it means is that it is taking place within a municipal framework.

The project, which has been in progress since 1978, stands and falls with the citizens.

The idea is as simple as it is plausible: no new preventive system has been created and no new institutions have been established. Instead, locally available possibilities have been made use of to the hilt.

It goes without saying that medical practitioners also play a major role in preventive medicine. The same goes for the town council and the mayor, who support all measures as far as possible.

It also goes without saying that such a pilot scheme must be subject to a scientific success control, in this case by Heidelberg University.

But the Wiesloch and Eberbach project depends in equal measure on doctors as it depends on the towns' bakers, butchers, pastry makers and teachers — teachers inasmuch as health care must become part of school curriculae, a drive which the school authorities have been watching with considerable interest.

Butchers for example go to surgeries where they instruct housewives on the correct preparation of food. Hoteliers present their guests with menus showing the calories for each course. And bakers provide low-salt, high-coarse-fibre bread.

DIE ZEIT

The new approach to preventive health care also consists in the fact that every single citizen is called upon to participate — in his own interests and in those of the community as a whole.

Everybody is also called upon to present his own ideas. Schoolchildren organise weight checks for visitors to local festivals and they hold meetings for senior citizens while a housewife runs a course for overweight people and a businessman holds group sessions for people wanting to quit smoking.

Everybody can participate, and most do. The project does not depend on the health authorities or the health insurance fund or the welfare departments but only on the citizens themselves.

They have formed a special club which has become so popular as to have had a special float devoted to it at the last carnival.

Though generally doctors have all sorts of reservations about "decreed prevention", they whole heartedly back this project because it has none of the nasty aftertaste that goes with government measures, which are frequently considered interference in the individual's way of life.

Civilisation's ailments can only be combated by changing people's habits, which cannot be done by regulations and decrees. This is particularly so with regard to such typical industrial society ills as arterioscleroses and high blood pressure with the attendant danger of heart attacks and strokes.

The doctors in both towns not only tolerate the project but take active part by holding group therapy sessions for high risk sections of the population and for people who have suffered heart attacks.

"Municipal prevention," say the fathers of the project, "means as little regimentation from above as possible."

They point to the fact that adults are allegic to all "health education" prescribed from above.

The preventive action therefore comes from the people themselves and has been developed by them. But in doing so — and this is important — the people went to the medical profession for advice.

Unlike in some other countries — such as the United States and ... the municipal prevention in the German towns has not resorted ... campaigns in the media but ... rely on person-to-person com... tion.

The whole thing is both mode... conservative — modern because ... on grassroots democracy in health ... ters, and conservative because it ... on citizen cohesion within the ... work of small municipalities.

As a result, the model will ... applied to small towns and ... perhaps to city boroughs in con... urbations.

The Wiesbaden Congress ... that the initiators of the proj... not yet entirely optimistic co... the future because it was still ... whether the Ebernach and Wies... ple would be prepared to do ... thing themselves in the long run.

Moreover, both the Heidelberg group and the Preventive Health ... are still in their early stages ... quite imaginable that their appr... not the only possible one.

It would therefore be desirable ... other and perhaps even more ... approaches as well. This could ... counselling by the national healt... vice or a "model health authori... indeed, a municipal health com... ner.

The solution that will prevail ... end will be the approach that is ... cially feasible and that has been ... by medical statistics to be success...

Wolfgang J. Ch...

(Die Zeit, 15 Ma...)

Drive to put milk drinking back in the classroom

A drive to promote milk drinking at school has been launched.

The education ministers of the *Länder* have been asked by the Giessen School Milk Congress to draft lists of recommended food and drink and to issue dietary guidelines.

Only those drinks and foodstuffs that are listed in the guidelines should be made available during breaks.

Professor Edmund Renner of Giessen told journalists that he was not worried about possible legal action by, the soft *drinks industry should such guidelines* be issued and the soft drink vending machines removed from schools.

But he stressed that the lists should be worked out in close consultation with dieticians and that parental approcal *would be necessary.*

The first of a series of theses explains why milk is preferable to the present favoured drinks of students, which are termed "sugar water without calories".

An excerpt from the first thesis: "The diet of children and juveniles is marked by the fact that about half of them arrive at school without having had an adequate breakfast and that they suffer from serious calcium and vitamin B deficiencies."

The thesis goes on to state that this condition can best be remedied by drinking milk.

According to experts, these deficiencies reduce the child's resistance to infection and his mental and physical capacities, resulting in poor memory and inability to concentrate.

The "Giessen Theses" point to ways and means of making milk palatable to schoolchildren.

Milk and milk products should be provided with many different tastes to make the issue of school milk attractive. Students should not have to queue for it and so waste their breaks.

The theses suggest that schools *should have a cafeteria or* "break room" where the issue of milk should be organised by the children themselves or be made available through dispensers.

The principal and the teachers should help solve the organisational problems.

Moreover, dietary matters should be dealt with as part of normal instruction.

Thesis number 7 says that "sensible and tasty food should be practically demonstrated and this should include milk."

The theses also call on the suppliers of school milk to employ experts who would counsel schools on dietary matters.

The financial burden of providing milk is tolerable, amounting to be... 25 and 30 pfennigs per half pint.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Professor Renner stressed that ... milk is subsidised and that the the... not demand that it be given away ...

The experts have called on poli... to make long-term provisions to ... the supply of milk for schools.

Polls among parents show that ... cent favour the issue of school mil...

One in four children arrives at ... without having had breakfast. ... three boys and one in four girls ... school without (or without ... *quate) sandwich* to have during break.

These figures were cited by Dr ... Wick of the Hesse Agriculture Mi... They were based on a survey of ... schoolchildren in six *Länder.*

Sweets and soft *drinks,* Dr Wi... frequently were a substitute for ... fast. The consequence, he sai... obesity and at the same time defi... in certain essential nutrients.

Since the introduction of the ... milk programme in *Hesse* in 19... participation of schoolchildren has ... from 3.5 to 25 per cent.

Even so, Dr Wick said, deman... milk was still relatively low. To ... matters worse, quite a few pri... show little interest in issuing ... school.

The dairy industry, which has ...

Continued on page 14

Die Milch macht's!

Promotion poster: making milk tasty by association. (Photo: BfH)

■ EDUCATION

Fewer university places available as the baby bulge begins to queue

Universities will have fewer places to offer as a result of budget cutbacks.

The cutbacks are biting at the very moment that the first students from the years of the heavy birth rate are beginning to queue for university places.

Bonn, by drastically cutting back on new university construction, has upset the entire financial basis and planning for the 1980s.

In this light it is hard to explain the fact that this year's Conference of West German University Rectors (WRK) in Aachen spent so much time listening to lectures and attending concerts rather than discussing the most acute problem — finance.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who has been touring the country and telling everybody — including university rectors — to pull in their belts and roll back on expectations for the future, seems unfazed by the dramatic worsening of the chances for secondary school graduates wanting to go to university.

And curiously enough, the WRK did not seize on the subject until most had already left, when WRK Vice-President Heinz Kuhnle warned of "disastrous consequences for university research and teaching."

Bonn has in one fell swoop upset the entire long-term programme drafted by committees of experts.

But when it came to implementing the cutbacks none of these committees was given an opportunity to make sensible proposals.

Only now, when these committees and the WRK, together with the *Länder*, have started pointing to the heap of rubble left in the wake of the budget cuts and to the fact that, under the Constitution, Bonn has to coordinate its actions with the *Länder*, has the federal *government returned to joint planning* and the use of instruments that had been tediously devised over a 20-year period.

Even so, three of the *Länder* seem determined to take the Bonn government to the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe.

The latest amendments of the austerity plan have not relieved the universities of having to start redrafting their entire programme.

Initial plans have to be modified, new priorities assigned and old agreements on sensible provisions for the high birthrate years and the gradual removal of the numerus clausus will have to be dropped.

The WRK could have provided an excellent opportunity to reconcile (at least to some extent) government policy and university programmes.

This was the first of these conferences to be addressed by the Chancellor. But the general satisfaction over the illustrious speaker's presence did not gloss over the fact that what Helmut Schmidt said did little to improve the tense relations.

The Aachen meeting made it quite clear that the Chancellor was not prepared to try and convince the university representatives of his policy, explain it to them and elaborate on the government's future intentions regarding universities.

He failed to answer most of the questions that are so important to the universities. Instead, he maintained usual reserve towards the apolitical of professors. The tricky relationship between the Chancellor and the universities could hardly have been demonstrated more poignantly.

But none of the other politicians came up with answers and perspectives on the changed situation, which only lead to the conclusion that themselves are at a loss for an answer.

The conference was thus a prime example of a non-dialogue between politicians and universities.

The most surprising thing of all that the rectors evidently preferred engage in their favourite debates principles, the quality of university search and the shortcomings of secondary schooling rather than discuss own future.

The Aachen experience would be irritating if we did not have to ask selves where a consensus on framework conditions for a future university cy is to be sought if not at a forum this. This applies above all to the government.

An austerity policy that takes *Länder* for a ride, ignores the experts and then does not even engage in a dialogue with the victims makes it impossible to meet the Chancellor's demand that the universities should look to the future without anxiety.

Malte Buschbeck

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 May 1981)

Milk drive

Continued from page 12

up its business in small cartons, offers many milk-based drinks with flavourings.

The addition of strawberry, banana, raspberry and caramel flavouring is to make milk at break attractive.

The two-day congress was attended by about 300 people, among them scientists, economists and educationalists.

Professor Edmund Renner, who chaired the meeting, said it was a success that the number of students regularly drinking milk during breaks has risen to 20 per cent compared with less than five per cent only three years ago.

Länder programmes have greatly contributed to the school milk drive — both through information campaigns and subsidies.

Packs holding 0.2 litres, costing DM0.30 on average, are subsidised to the tune of 75 per cent (of which 75 per cent is paid from EEC coffers).

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 May 1981)

Professors condemn devolved decision making

Group universities have not been a success, according to a representative of German professors and lecturers.

In group universities, decisions are made not just by teachers, but by students as well.

Professor Hartmut Schiedermair, president of the University Professors and Lecturers Association, told the press that the hopes placed in this form of university by the lawmakers had not been fulfilled.

Even advocates of group universities had been unable, he said, to come up with any positive results. As a consequence, even these circles are no longer unreservedly in favour of this organisational form.

Professor Schiedermair criticised above all the universities of Bremen and Berlin where science had been politicised — be it openly in the form of a political programme or covertly.

In some German universities, he said, the various groups are remote controlled to such an extent as to justify the charges levelled by the Association of Universities to the effect that group universities were anti-individualistic.

Professor Schiedermair cited the following example of such remote control: a non-scientific university employee adamantly refused to put his group's standpoint up for discussion, saying that "this has been decided by the Public Sector Workers Union, and I have to stick by the union's decision."

Professor Schiedermair said that there were times when it was a cardinal sin to make science partisan and the group university, which promotes such partisanship, has frequently led to indifference among those concerned.

The students, he said, had not become more committed and involved as a result of the new organisational setup than they had been ten years earlier.

Generally, the group university is considered a "heavy burden" that complicates university administration. As a result, these universities have frequently been unable to fulfill their functions. Though they do not necessarily wreck science, they also contribute little towards raising standards, performance and a sense of responsibility.

As a result, the University Professors and Lecturers Association demanded that the existing scope be used to return to more science-orientated decisions. But no total review of the existing law has been demanded because no politician would be prepared to go along.

Reinhold Michels

(Rheinische Post, 13 May 1981)

TV programme on suicide stirs a hornet's nest

The Cultural Affairs Committee of the Bavarian legislature has discussed whether or not the media promote suicides by televising programmes like the recent 6-part serial "Death of a Pupil".

The scientists who gave evidence disappointed the politicians with their preconceived notions. The experts considered that such films do no harm and, in fact, stimulate discussion on a subject that had been regarded as taboo.

Munich Professor Hans Schiefele said that "such a film can lead to suicide but it could just as well have exactly the opposite effect."

ZDF (the channel that showed the film) editor Siegried Braun said that 12 million viewers had tuned in but that suicide figures during that period did not go up. In fact, he said, they dropped from 114 during the same time last year to 101.

Yet psychiatrists, psychologists and pediatricians were not entirely satisfied with the manner in which the story was presented. They argued that the film should have shown a young person solving his conflicts instead of making him choose self-destruction.

Was it really necessary, they asked, to show the suicide, complete with the appropriate music, at the beginning of each instalment?

Psychologist Christof Angermann said that the film should not have shown how to go about it.

But editor Braun argued that, where suicide is concerned, a film must get down to brass tacks.

But what about the suicide-promoting influence of our schools?

Robert Stromberger, the script writer, said that the safe haven provided by a clique is lost once a high school student enters his senior years, when competition becomes so fierce as to turn mates into rivals.

The scientists went along with this criticism of the schools, saying that more communication could do more for future society than more performance.

But even so, they were reluctant to put the blame for juvenile suicide on the schools.

Child psychiatrist Hermann Rost, who handles some 20 attempted suicide cases a year, stressed that every suicide involves a great many factors. Three of these factors, he said, are of paramount importance:

- Inadequately developed self confidence, usually due to family circumstances. As one psychiatrist put it: "The mother is a powerful personality and the father is either not at home or, if he is at home, he has no say."
- The suicide-prone person finds nobody with whom to discuss his problems; he becomes isolated and finds himself in a situation he no longer wants to tolerate, ultimately opting out of life.

Children in such a situation see death as something peaceful and friendly. They want to return to the womb to be reborn.

There was general agreement on preventive measures. One of the participants put it in a nutshell when he said: "What we need is to talk."

Among the proposals put forward were special training for parents and psychological tutoring for teachers.

All this leads to the conclusion that while no other society has ever had more perfect communications systems, communication problems have never been more grave.

Peter Sch...

(Die Welt, ...)

SPORT

Reflecting on glory that never was

...a year now since the decision to boycott the Moscow Olympics and decathlon ace Guido Kratschmer knows only too well that the subject has long ceased to be of anything but academic interest.

"I could see it coming in any case," he says. "We were going to have to make the sacrifice and the other business was going to carry on regardless."

Sure enough, Afghanistan is still occupied by the Russians, more so than ever. But when he reads in his newspaper that the Reagan administration is to lift the embargo on foodgrain exports to Russia he can but shake his head and read on.

Industry quietly disregarded momentous political considerations last year too, he recalls. It was business as usual. The volume of trade with the Soviet Union has since increased. There is talk of a ...10bn loan to Moscow.

Kratschmer is 28 and graduated recently as a sports teacher at Mainz University. He is currently putting the finishing touches to his thesis and hopes in ...8 months' time to complete his degree course in biology too.

For him too it is business as usual. A mere four weeks after the 15 May 1980 boycott decision he set up a new decathlon world record and German sports writers voted him last year's Sportsman of the Year.

But as he sees it what counts in absolute terms is Olympic gold, an ambition he must now shelve. He won the silver medal at Montreal in 1976.

"The worst experience I have ever been through was when my mother died," he says. "Not that there is any way of comparing that with the loss of a possible Olympic gold medal, of course!

"But," he adds, the Olympic boycott was "certainly second-worst: "It was such an enormously important objective for so many years. I was determined to win Olympic gold.

"I didn't want to force matters but I did feel I had it in me and am sure I would have pulled it off if I had been given the opportunity." For years he went around determined to win a gold medal. He was 11 when he saw on TV how Willi Holdorf won a gold at Tokyo in 1964 and wanted to emulate him ever since. For 16 years the idea steadily interlinked with reality. If he failed it would certainly not be for lack of talent. He had plenty of that, and any amount of will power too.

Then, suddenly, it was all over. "There you are and there is nothing you can do about it," he recalls. "I'm the sort of person who grows extremely phlegmatic in that kind of situation.

"I might go for a walk, for instance, but when it becomes too much I feel I have to join a group, let off steam, knock back a few drinks.

"How I feel varies wildly. I wavered first one way, then the other, even during the time I was aiming to set a new world record."

"It still happened now and then that I would soonest have driven off somewhere or other and downed a drink or two."

In between times he went home to Grossheubach, the village where he grew up, back to the countryside and his sister. His family ties are certainly intact.



Guido Kratschmer: "I'm no longer under pressure. I'm really enjoying my athletics." (Photo: Werek)

His Bernhausen world record, 8,649 points, made him feel better. On serious consideration he soon began to see it all in a more modest perspective:

"What with war and famine everywhere there are consolations, as you gradually begin to realise."

Does this viewpoint assume such proportions that it is enough to offset the disappointment for good? "Oh yes, or at least that's how I feel about it."

He now plans to add another national decathlon championship title to his collection this summer and qualify for the European Cup team that goes to Birmingham.

"Now I feel no longer under pressure. I am really enjoying my athletics." Just as in his early days? "Yes, more or less. I no longer have any great expectations of myself and as things now stand I feel truly happy."

Robert Hartmann

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 14 May 1981)

Another side to the maligned man on the terraces

...Spectators at sporting events, the fans who click their way through the turnstiles as they head for the stands and terraces, do not have a particularly good Press.

One tends to think in terms of soccer hooligans on the rampage who in other respects are somewhat disinterested supporters of a weekend leisure activity that does not amount to all that much.

One might even associate the term sports fans (the onlooker variety) with passive masses who have a distinctly disturbed relationship with their own physical activity.

Neo-Marxist criticism of top-flight competitive sport has added any number of political variations on this wholesale condemnation of passive spectators by the man in the street.

Watching sporting activities distracts attention from revolutionary work, for instance, thereby proving an important ...-stabilising feature of capitalism.

Does this make the regular spectator, the fan on the terraces waving his flag and shaking his fist, cheering his own team or booing the others, a somewhat contemptible figure of very little importance?

Given that he is extremely important for the club's finances, is he otherwise a mere minor figure, a necessary evil of sport, as it were?

If an article in the latest issue of *Sportwissenschaft* magazine is any guide, this denigration of the spectator is not only grossly exaggerated but fundamentally mistaken.

Summarising the findings of a number of surveys in America and Western Europe, Allen Guttmann of Amherst College reaches some surprising conclusions.

Professor Guttmann says fans are usually above-average playing members of sports clubs as well as spectators. They are also probably more active in politics and the arts than non-spectators.

Aggression and violence cannot be overlooked, of course, but the explanation advanced is a far cry from the customary assumption in connection with spectator sports.

Sport, he claims, cannot be regarded as a safety valve that allows people to let off steam. It merely rechannels aggression. "Watching aggressive behaviour heightens aggressiveness."

He also concludes that the neo-Marxists have misread the situation. Citing German and British surveys of spectator behaviour at association and Rugby football he says:

"Spectator sports are, after all, part and parcel of working- and middle-class culture. Contrary to the opinions of neo-Marxists they would appear to heighten class consciousness and intensify class conflict.

"While middle-class spectators act out a virtually inexhaustible range of harmless inanities and pranks in their institutional time out, working-class fans are stimulated to rebellious, not to say revolutionary, behaviour."

So has the time come to take an entirely fresh look at the spectator? Professor Guttmann would certainly like him to be given a fairer deal.

He feels information about spectator behaviour should in future be based on empirical evidence rather than on the "bottomless cornucopia of ideology."

Generalisation about the mob on the terraces certainly no longer seems appropriate.

Harald Pieper

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 16 May 1981)

Rally champion comes back in a Porsche

World champion rally driver Walter Röhrl from Regensburg, who has been out of racing this season since Daimler-Benz retired from the sport, is back in business.

He came second in the Metz rally at Stein in a Porsche 924 GTS that had, as he put it, never before been off a paved road.

It was only a German championship event, so he is not back on the world championship circuit yet, but it is at least a start, and an encouraging one in the circumstances.

The pre-race strain was enormous. There he was in a small provincial town, the world champion at the wheel of a car the brand name of which was synonymous with successful racing.

Everyone naturally expected him to show the competition a clean pair of rear wheels. "People just look at the names of people in the programme," he said before the start. "They are not interested in the problems you may face."

He entered the rally with a completely new and virtually untested car, and the race was anything but a cake-walk.

Racing pundits were somewhat surprised Porsche had decided to enter the championship running after such a short time in preparation.

"True enough, there was an element of risk," Röhrl afterwards admitted. "If I had been beaten hollow here I could have called it a day.

"Everyone would have said: 'Just look at him, the world champion. He's no different from anyone else after all.' "

He could have quit of course, biding his time back home in Regensburg until he was offered a tried and trusted racing car, but it would not have been like him.

Röhrl wants to race. It is not only his profession. It is also his hobby and he did not hesitate for a moment to accept Porsche's offer.

It was a risk for Porsche too, of course. "But we were simply upset to see a man like Röhrl just sitting around doing nothing," says Porsche racing manager Manfred Jantke.

"Mind you," he adds, "we were not expecting the very first rally to prove so successful."

Entering for the Metz rally was an experiment. Now it has proved a success there can be no ruling out Porsche taking a more serious interest in rally racing.

They might even step in to fill the gap left when Daimler-Benz stepped down and retired from the fray.

Next season Röhrl and co-driver Christian Geistdörfer could well compete in the entire world championship circuit. But Porsche at present say they plan to wait and see. "It's still early days," says Jantke.

Nuremberg tuner Konrad Schmidt, who is responsible for getting the car ready for racing, takes a brighter view of the future:

"If the Porsche continues to run so well we might even enter for a few world championship rallies later this season."

That would be very much to Röhrl's liking. He recently refused an offer by Mitsubishi, who were prepared to underwrite an entire world championship season starting this May.

Claus-Peter Andorka

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 May 1981)